THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The subscription price of this paper for a year is THREE

We observe in the Richmond Enquirer of Tuesday a reiteration of its efforts to breathe life into the proposed Convention at Nashville, recommending to its readers to meet together "as a band of brothers" to send Delegates from Richmond to the Nashville Convention. Has the Editor of the "Enquirer" not yet got his eyes open, or does he believe, with some of his Whig brethren at Richmond, that this scheme of a Convention, instead of being part of a plot for the Dissolution of the Union. is really harmless, because, when the Delegates get to Nashville-if ever they get there-they are to on earth are they to go there for ? Oh! says the correspondent of the Enquirer who calls the meeting, they are to "co-operate with Georgia, with Mississippi, and with the rest of the States of the South." That is to say, to co-operate in doing forward in support of the Nashville Convention. The truth nothing-unless it be in exposing themselves to the scoffs and jeers of the Tennesseans, all friends of the Union, or so nearly all that there is hardly a dissenting voice. Besides, the Enquirer perfectly denied that the whole movement is an entire failure, a miswell knows that, if South Carolina and Mississippi erable abortion, and is so pronounced by every candid man are represented at Nashville at the time appointed, who values his charater for veracity, who is familiar with the it is at least doubtful whether any other State will actual state of things. The pretended meetings have been be : certainly ten out of the fifteen States of the South will not be, unless by Ruckerite Delegates.

day, a truly patriotic and constitutional argument people, that several instances have occurred in which warm against the course recommended by the Enquirer. which we shall not perhaps find a moment more serve as delegates alone upon that ground; that public sentiopportune than the present to place before our

To the Editors of the Whig. I trust the suggestion of a town meeting on the exciting

question of the day will not be pressed. The time for it has not arrived; may-nay, we have reason to hope, will never arrive. The people should not be unmindful, nor permit others to be so, of their true and proud position, their high yet responsible attributes under our form of government. Here they constitute the true court of last resort-the supreme and final arbiter of all questions arising beyond the Constitution, of intolerable grievances or abuses under it. In their hands only is the final destiny of this great country for wea or for wo, for glory or shame. The views of their representatives may be disayowed; the resolutions of their Legislatures be superseded; the dicta of their Governors be disregarded; even laws of Congress and decisions of Courts be reversed or annulled when they declare their sove-seign will. From all these the appeal lies to the people; but from the ultimate decisions of the people there is no appeal; of them there is no solution, save acquiescence or force. They are the extreme medicine of the body politic, and should he reserved therefore for cases of the last extremity. No such our representatives; between them it has not even yet as sumed a definite shape, and the modifications it is undergoing seem of good rather than of evil omen. The late violent outburst of feelings and opinions long pent up, or but half dis-closed, have relieved the lowering clouds; and the uncheck-ed license of debate, like the lightnings of the tempest, has served to show the breakers on which the good ship was driving, in time, I humbly trust, to save her. If we do not yet see what will save the Union, we see plainly enough, at east, something that would destroy it. The pretension that this is a pro slavery Government, and the demand, by new and almost absurd concessions, or by forced interpretations of the Constitution, for its active intervention in favor of slavery, all calm and sensible men see are demands that cannot be persisted in consistently with the preservation of the Union. The pretension, on the other hand, that this is an anti-slavery Government—the sophistry by which bad men, eluding the plain provisions of the Constitution, seek to render it ac-tively inimical to that institution—all men must see will, in like manner, if persisted in, sign the death-warrant of the Union. Between these extremes lies the path of safety and of truth. It was found amid similar pretensions when the Constitution was formed, in provisions that met the concurrence of Anams and Manison, of FRANKLIN and of PINCE max—of the great body of the Convention and of the patriotic masses of the people, North and South. May we not hope it will be found again in a fair and just interpretation of the e provisions and efficient measures, for the fulfilment of the obligations impose, which shall be soncurred in by CLAT, and CASS, and WEBSTER, by the Senate and the House, sustained a they will be by the wise and good, the mod rate and patriotic from one end of the Union to the other? In their hands le

Wholly unsuspicious of any allusion to the National Intelligencer in the Letter of Mr. CLING-MAN, (published on the last page to-day) until it was pointed out to us by the Foreman of the office after it was put in type, we have been made aware of it too late to notice it altogether as it deserves. were we disposed to do so. But we have no such ing of the proposed Nashville Convention, as useless or dandisposition : for we have a kind feeling towards gerous ; and, finally, avowing a determination at all hazards to Mr. CLINGMAN, and have felt no other emotion at the course which he has thought it his duty to take in the present conjuncture but that of regret that he blage of Whigs and Democrats, with only two dissenting should have so committed himself in favor of measures, if not of actual violence, yet looking towards it.

We can assure Mr. CLINOMAN, whose means of knowing the state of public opinion all over this Saturday evening next, April 6, to respond to the action of country are necessarily more limited than ours, that the Legislature on the subject of the Nashville Convention. in its most favorable aspect the Nashville Conven- from the Enquirer office, on Monday last, and was in the tion is condemned by a great majority of the People form of a communication, signed "Many Citizens." As we of the South. Indeed, no part of the People of did not learn who was responsible for the article, and as its the South have ever, that we have seen, called for subject was one of serious importance, we determined not to the measure. The agitation of the question of a publish it until we should be satisfied that there was some-Southern Convention has been purely the work of the Politicians of the South ; and the People have not to any considerable extent engaged in it.

With regard to public opinion as indicated by the Press, we speak within bounds when we say, that out of the two hundred and fifty or three hundred papers in the South and Southwest which are received at this office, not fifty have at any time favored the project of the Nashville Convention : and, of those fifty, comparatively few now continue to advocate it. On the contrary, the following, and friendly warning, which its advocates in the Legislature from an Alabama paper, which has caught our eye represented. They apprehend some hidden purpose of " dissince seeing Mr. C.'s letter, expresses a sentiment union per se," into which they may be unconsciously enwhich (speaking of the States of the South and trapped. In this state of the public mind there is need for dis-Southwest in the aggregate) may be said to be general among their People:

FROM "THE SELMA REPORTER" OF MARCH 29.

gislature last winter in reference to the Nashville Convention. The people remain calm and imperturbable, notwithstanding the incessant utulations which are kept up in certain quar-The subscription price of this paper for a year is There to be ascertained—as some of the Popular to maintain the incessant substance.

For the long Sessions of Congress, (averaging eight months,) the price will be Two Dollars; for the short Sessions One Dollar per copy.

A reduction of 20 per cent. (or one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, five copies of the Weekly paper; and a like reduction of 25 per cent. (or one-feurth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for at one time ten or more copies.

No accounts being kept for this paper, it will not be forwarded to any one unless paid for in advance, nor sent any longer than the time for which it is so paid.

the incessant substances which are kept up in certain quarters. We applied their good sense and acute discernment. No man dares to say that the people of Alabama have not the sense to understand their rights and the spirit to maintain the true test by which the friends and enemies of the South are to be ascertained—as some of the Democratic organs of Alabama have had the spagily to discern—have the people been so tardy, so unparticularly slothful in proclaiming their approbation of its objects and anxiety to be represented in it. They love the Union—the South are as quick to apprehend danger to their rights, and as bold to protect them, as those who periodically usurp the province of speaking for them and in their names through the editorials of the public press. Yet, notwithstanding all the inflammatory appeals which have been made to them, and the reproachful slung which has been let off in such abundant sluices upon those who have openly opposed this Convention, there has been but one call, so far as we have heard, for a meeting of the people to ratify the proceedings at Montgomery.

Here is another extract, copied from a Georgia paper received vesterday. The Charleston Mercury, under the imposing head of " Public Sentiment in Georgia." having copied certain paragraphs from the Macon Telegraph, the Augusta do nothing? If they are to do nothing there, what Chronicle and Sentinel of last Saturday makes thereon the following comments:

"The obvious purpose and tenor of these paragraphs and their publication, are to make the impression on the minds of persons not familiar with the facts, that Georgia is moving is precisely the reverse; and if the writer had set out to indite a paragraph designed to misrepresent the state of public feeling in the State, he could not have more successfully ac complished his purpose than in this instance. It cannot be like angels'visits, " few and far between," and not one of them, in any section of the State, have been even respectable in point of numbers. Indeed, such has been the total indif-We cut out of the Richmond Whig, the other ference with which the whole thing has been received by the advocates of the Convention have declined a nomination to ment seemed not to favor the project, or was totally indif-

"Since the foregoing was prepared we have received the following notice in the Southern Banner of a Convention held in Gainesville, the published proceedings of which seem to have studiously avoided any allusion to the number of counties represented or the delegates in attendance. Rather an ominous fact. The Banner says :

"The Gainesville Convention .- An account of the proceedings of this body will be found in another column of to-day's paper. Only four counties of the nine composing the Sixth Congressional district were represented. They were Sixth Congressional district were represented. They were Walton, Jackson, Hall, and Habersham. The Whigs were represented only from the counties of Habersham and Hall. There was not a quorum of the district present; and hence Mr. Thurmond of Jackson was opposed to the nomination. The members, however, proceeded to the nomination of delegates to the Southern Convention, no doubt considering their action altogether recommendatory, and not obligatory in a party sense upon either of the two great political divisions. In this light we are willing to consider it, and to accept the nomination as in accordance with public sentiment. We do not doubt that both of the distinguished nominees are entirely acceptable to the people of the district.

"We have also received the reply of Dr. MILLER, of Cass,

"I am very sensible of the distinction conferred by the se lection, and regret that I cannot accept it frankly and without reservation. But the fact that only a portion of the counties composing the district was represented at Cassville, and some of them but partially, justifies the inference that the people of the remainder either desire no representation in the Southern Convention or are quite indifferent upon the subject."

So much for "public sentiment in Georgia!" Had we time, we might add many other extracts from the Southern press expressing opinions similar to the above ; but we must, for the present, limit ourselves to two or three more, taken from the pa-

pers received yesterday, and nearest at hand: FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

From all we can learn from our exchanges, there is a great deal more opposition to the proposed Nashville Convention than we had any thought there would have been. Papers from all parts of the South have come to hand containing resolutions opposed to it. They give as a reason that the proposed Convention, they fear, will have a tendency to weaken the bonds that hold the States together. . We remark, however, a universal spirit of opposition to any thing calculated to compromise the honor of the South. Those who are in favor of the Nashville Convention are sincere in the belief us leave it. At present we might but embarrass them in the offits efficacy, if not to adjust the present difficulty, at least to good work to which they have devoted themselves. strengthen the hands of Southern Congressmen; whilst the opposers of the Convention take the ground that it will tend towards disunion, trammel our Representatives in Congress or at least do no good, &cc. . .

FROM THE PATETTEVILLE (N. C.) OBSERVER OF APRIL 2. After the business of the Whig meeting in Chatham was included, M. Q. Waddell, Esq. offered a series of resolutions expressing reverence for the Constitution and attachment to the Union ; deprecating sectional feelings ; disapprovmaintain the rights of the South as connected with the institution of slavery. John Kenn, Esq. eloquently advocated these resolutions, and they were adopted, in a large assem-

The Enquirer has published for two days past a notice to the citizens of Richmond that a public meeting will be held on

The first call of this meeting was sent to us in proof-sheet, thing like a general desire for the proposed meeting at the time suggested.

From such inquiries as we have been able to make, we are persuaded that such of the community as have seen the notice-and there are many who have not-have been taken somewhat by surprise; and we think it is the general sentiment that the meeting should be postponed to a later day.

There is undoubtedly much difference of opinion pre vailing on this subject, whilst we believe there is none whatever as to maintaining the Southern position of resistance to aggressive measures. Many are not satisfied that the Nashville Convention is designed to be the measure of consultation cussion, consideration, reflection, before any public demonstration is attempted.

MONTALITY AT SEA. -The packet ship Siddons, from We have heard of but one call for a meeting of the People in this State to ratify the action of the members of the Le
on the 13th February. CONGRESS.

Extracts from our Daily Reports.

The following message was received from the President of the United States; which was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed :

To the Senate of the United States :

I transmit a translation of a note, under date the 20th of last month, addressed to the Secretary of State by the Minis-ter of the Mexican republic accredited to this Government, expressing the views of that Government with reference to the control of wild Indians of the United States on the fron-

INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR AGENT IN HUNGARY. The following message was received from the President of the United States; which was read, laid on the table, and

ordered to be printed : WASHINGTON, MARCH 28, 1850.

Washington, March 28, 1850.

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the Endinestant, requesting the President of the United States to communicate to that body, a copy of the instructions given a gent of the United States who was employed to vait Hangary during the recent war between that country and Austria, and of the correspondence by and with such agent, so far as the publication of the same may be consistent with the public interest, I herewith transmit to the Senate a copy of the instructions to A. Dudley Mann, Esq. relating to Hungary, he having been appointed by me special agent to that country on the eighteenth day of June last, together with a copy of the correspondence with our late Chargé d'Affaires to Austria, referred to in those instructions, and of other papers disclosing the policy of this Government in reference to Hungary and her people. I also transmit, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate, but in a separate packet, a copy of the correspondence of Mr. Mann with the pliance with the resolution of the Senate, but in a separate packet, a copy of the correspondence of Mr. Mann with the Department of State. The latter I have caused to be marked "Executive," the information contained in it being such as will be found, on examination, most appropriately to belong to the Senate in the exercise of its executive functions. The publication of this correspondence of the agent sent by me to Hungary, is a matter referred entirely to the judgment and It will be seen, by the documents now transmitted, that no

ninister or agent was accredited by the Government of Hungary to this Government at any period since I came into office: nor was any communication ever received by this Gov-ernment from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, or any other executive officer authorized to act in her behalf. by purpose, as freely avowed in this correspondence, was to have acknowledged the independence of Hungary, had she succeeded in establishing a government de facto, on a basis sufficiently permanent in its character to have justified me in o, according to the usages and settled principles of this ment; and although she is now fallen, and many of her gallant patriots are in exile or in chains, I am free still to clare that had she been successful in the maintenance o such a government as we could have recognized, we should have been the first to welcome her into the family of nations.

The VICE PRESIDENT announced from the chair the following Senators as the committee on the part of the Senate to attend the remains of the Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN to his native State : Mr. Mason, Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, Mr. BERRIEN, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. DICKINSON, and Mr. Dodge,

to the questions in controversy between the States, and declaring the unalterable attachment of the people of that State authorized to say that this is a debt now due from the Geneto the Federal Union; which were ordered to lie on the table ral Government to the State of Virginia. The prayer of the

the public lands in the county of St. Louis, Missouri, asking Company. I ask that the petition be referred to the Comto be allowed the right of pre-emption to the lands on which witten of Claims. The motion was agreed to they have settled; which was referred to the Committee on

Mr. WEBSTER presented the memorial of Wm. H. Chase, praying to be released from two judgments obtained m by the United States on certain bonds, as given by him as President of the Alabama, Florida, and Georgia Railroad Company, for the payment of the duties on railroad the object I have in view in presenting it. iron imported for the use of that company ; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. UNDERWOOD presented a resolution of the Legisertions to procure the enactment of a law granting pensions cers, soldiers, and volunteers who served in the army under Gen. Wayne, and bounty lands to the officere, soldiers, and volunteers who served in the last war with Great Britain, and to the officers in the late war with Mexico : which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. CORWIN presented a petition of citizens of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, asking that no State may be hereafter admitted into the Union whose constitution does not expressly prohibit slavery within its limits; a petition of citizens of he same place, asking that slavery and the slave trade may be prohibited in all the Territories of the United States : and a petition of the same, asking that slavery and the slave trade may be abolished in the District of Columbia, or the seat of government removed therefrom; which several petitions were rdered to lie on the table.

Mr. HAMLIN presented three petitions of citizens of Peobscot county, Maine, asking that the right of trial by jury may be secured by law to fugitive slaves; also, two petit from the same, in favor of the prohibition of slavery and the slave trade in all the Territories; also, a petition of citizens of Cumberland county, Maine, against the admission of any State into the Union in which slavery is not prohibited ; alse petition of citizens of Penobscot county and Cumberland ounty, Maine, asking that the slave trade may be abolished in the District of Columbia or the seat of government removed; all of which several petitions were ordered to lie on

Mr. CLAY. I present a memorial, signed by members of the General Assembly of Kentucky, asking that Columbus, on the Mississippi river, may be made the eastern terminus of a railroad to the Pacific ocean, and that an appropriation may be made for executing the survey of the route of the said railcoad. The petition is not long, and embraces in sub-stance a number of very strong reasons for making Co-lumbus the terminus of the road to the Pacific. Some of to submit a few remarks in relation to his own powers and these reasons are, that there is near that point a railroad in contemplation from Mobile to the State of Kentucky ; that there is a connexion with the railroad from Charleston and Savannah, through Tennessee, near the same point; and that there are other railroads in contemplation, connecting that point, or near it, with the Atlantic cities. I move that, without reading, the petition be referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals, and I ask that it be printed.

The motion to refer was agreed to, and the motion to print

vas also by unanimous consent adopted. Mr. CLAY. Mr. President, I present a petition of citi zens of Lewis county, Kentucky, asking that the right of trial by jury may be secured by law to fugitive slaves, arrested in any other State than that in which their service is claimed. Also, a petition from citizens of the same county and State, asking that no State may hereafter be admitted into the Union whose constitution does not expressly prohibit slavery within its limits. Also, a petition of the same, asking that and the slave trade may be prohibited by law in all the terri tories of the United States; and a petition from the same, asking that slavery and the slave trade may be abolished in the District of Columbia, or the seat of Government be removed

I wish to discharge myself of these petitions, sir, though I hould have been glad if the petitioners had selected some other channel for their presentation here. They come from my own State; but, although signed by a number of persons, I am quite sure these petitions do not express the sentiment of any large number of persons in the county from which they come or any other county in Kentucky. They are papers chiefly signed by the same persons; the heads of them are printed and appear to be got up by concert and design, between a few abolisionists who have found their way to that quarter. However that may be, here they are; they are sent to me, and I wish to get rid of them; I therefore ask that they may be received and disposed of as other similar petitions has They were accordingly laid on the table.

CLAIM OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. M. MASON. I present the memorial of the president pany, asking the payment of the sum of \$120,000, advanced by the State of Virginia to the Government of the United States, by resolution of 29th D-cember, 1790, and transferred the states of the Sta to the petitioners, asking its repayment with interest, to aid in

This claim being in fact the property of the State of Virgi-nis, although now transferred to one of the railroad companies for the purpose of internal improvement, requires that I should make a very brief statement of the facts of the case. In doing so, I will occupy the attention of the Senate but for a

It appears that, as early as the year 1784, before the adop tion of our present constitution, the States then confederated thought it necessary to establish what was called at that day a "federal city," or "federal town;" and a resolution was adopted by the old Congress on the 23d of December, 1784, deciaring that the location of this federal town should be made near the lower falls of the river Delaware. A proposition was introduced into the old Congress for the purpose of appropriating a sum of money for erecting public buildings on the site designated. But it required, as we know, under the articles of the confederation, that nine States should concur in refer to make this appropriation; and they did not obtain the concurrence of these nine States. The records of that day show that the difficulty was the inability of that Congress to obtain manual for the concerns of the congress to obtain manual for the congress to obtain the congress the congress to obtain th obtain money for more pressing emergencies for federal pur-poses; so that the thing was not done. After the adoption of the present constitution, the Legislature of Virginia, by a resolution passed in the year 1789, tendered to Congress ten miss square of the territory of Virginia, to be selected within the limits of that State, for the purpose of putting up the necessary buildings to accommodate the Federal Government; and in the same year a resolution was passed, proposing on the part of Virginia that, if Congress should locate these ten nile square within the limits of that State, the Government of Vyginia would advance a sum of money for the purpose of aiding in the erection of the necessary public buildings. That resolution of the State of Virginia, it appears, did not meet the aprobation of the Congress of the United States; for the first at locating the ten miles square for purposes of federal government was an act passed on the 16th of July, 1790, by which the location of the seat of government was fixed on the easter side of the Potomac river, in the State of Maryland, and commissioners were appointed to locate it any where on the eatern side of the river, between the mouths of the "Easern Branch" and the "Connegocheque" rivers. That act we passed on the 16th of July, 1790; and the fourth the act gave authority to the President of the United Stees to accept grants of money to defray the expense o purchaing and erecting public buildings. In the same year, 1790, in the 27th of December, a resolution was passed by the General Assembly of Virginia authorizing the advance of \$120,000 to the General Government to aid in the erection of public haildings within the ten miles square, the seat of gov-

The bllowing year, 1791, on the third of March, an act was passed by the Congress of the United States, requiring on the jart of the Federal Government that the seat of govshould be located on the Virginia side of the river, so as te embrace the town of Alexandria. Thus it was that under he two acts the District of Columbia was eventually ocated so as to embrace a portion of the territory of both States. The resolution of Virginia passed in 1790 was compled with, and \$120,000 was advanced to the General Government, to aid in the erection of the public buildings It is proper to refer here to a part of the history of the trans-action. When this resolution was on its passage in the Geneaction. When this resolution was on its passage in the ral Assembly, as the journals of that day show, it was re Also, that Mr. Atchtson fill the place on the Committee of Foreign Relations made vacant by Mr. Benton having been excused from further service on the same.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Density of the President of the United States the sum of \$120,000, for the purpose of erecting public buildings agreeably to the resolution of the last Assembly, and those journals also show how, while that resolution The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Department of War, made in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 25th ultimo, requesting to be furnished as soon as practicable with any recent report or other information in reference to the geology and topography of California; transmitting the reports of Brevet Major General Smith and Brevet Brigadier General Riley, and a communication from the colonel of the corps of topographical engineers, with a copy of a merisor upon the geology of California addressed to him by Philip T. Tyson, Esq.; which was laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a pream-The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a preamble and resolutions of the Legislature of Michigan in relation

a claim due to the State of Virginia, although transferred by ral Government to the State of Virginia. The prayer of the petition is that it be refunded with proper interest under the assignment made by the General Assembly to this Railroad mittee of Claims. The motion was agreed to.

ernmen to be located on the Maryland side.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I rise to present the joint resolu tion of which I gave notice a few mornings since, in order that it may lie on the table and be printed. Hereafter, when I shall ask its reference, I shall beg leave of the Senate to state

The resolution is as follows : Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of Mr. UNDERWOOD presented a resolution of the Legisthe United States of America in Congress assembled, That
the following amendments to the constitution be proposed and
the Representatives of that State in Congress to use their exrecommended to the Legislatures of the several States for heir ratification, to wit:

Amend the seventh section of the first article by striking ou

the words, "two-thirds of that House," wherever they occur and insert the words, "a majority of all the members to which that House may be entitled." Amend the first section of the second article by inserting after the words "fourteen years a resident within the Unit

States," the following words, " nor shall the person elected be eligible to that office for the succeding four years after the expiration of the term for which he was elected." Amend the first section of the third article by adding there to the following, "whenever a majority of all the members to which the Senate is entitled by law, and a like majority of the members of the House of Representatives, shall concur in an address to the President for the removal of any judge, his office shall be vacant from the day of the delivery of such address, and the President shall proceed to fill the same in the manner

Prescribed by law."

Amend the constitution by the two additional articles following:

Art. 14. The tenure of all offices, and the mode of removal from office, shall be regulated by law, those cases excepted which are provided for in the constitution.

Art. 15. Senators and Representatives shall not be eligible

to any office, on the nomination of the Presideat, during the time for which they were respectively elected to serve in the Congress of the United States, and for two years next ensuing the expiration thereof: Provided, however, The President may select the heads of the Departments from the members of Congress.

Resolved. That when three-fourths of the Legislatures

the several States shall ratify the foregoing proposed amend-ments, or any one or more of them, the same, when so ratified, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of the cou-

The resolution was ordered to be printed. DECORUM IN DEBATE.

duties to preserve order.

On assuming the responsible duty as presiding officer of this

body, I trusted that no occasion would arise when it would become necessary for the Chair to interpose to preserve order in debate. I could not disguise the fact that, by possibility, such a necessity might arise. I therefore inquired of some of the Senators to know what had been the usage on this subject, and was informed that the general practice had been, since Mr. Calboun acted as Vice President, not to interfere unless a question of order was made by some Senator. I was informed that that distin-guished and now lamented person had declined to exercise the power of calling to order for words spoken in debate, on the ground that he had no authority to do so. Some thought the rule had been since changed, and others not; but then there at li seemed to be a difference of opinion as to the power. It is seemed to be a difference of opinion was strongly ber is speaking in any debate." ground that he had no authority to do so. Some thought the Under these circumstances, though my opinion was strongly in favor of the power, with or without the rule to authorize it. thought it most prudent not bastily to assume the exercise of it, but to wait until the course of events should show that it tary debates in the country, says that no one is to disturb was necessary. It appears to me that that time has now ar-; another in his speech, &c., nor to pass between the Speaker rived, and that the Senate should know my opinion on this subject, and the powers which, after mature reflection, I think are vested in the Chair, and the corresponding duties which they impose. If I am wrong in the conclusion at which I have arrived, desire the advice of the Senate to correct me. I therefore thick it better to state them now, when there is the opportu-nity for a cool and dispassionate examination, rather than when speaking by addressing him directly instead of addresswait until they are called into action by some scene of excitement which may be unfavorable to dispassionate deliberation and advice. For, while I should shrink from no responsibilities which the office with which I am honored imposes upon me, I would most scrupulously avoid the assumption of any power not conferred by the constitution and rules of

The question then presents itself, "Has the Vice President, as presiding officer of this body, the power to call a Senator to order for words spoken in debate?"

The sixth rule of the Senate is in the following words "When a member shall be called to order by the President or a Senator he shall sit down, and every question of order shall be decided by the President without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate; and the President may call for the sense of the Senate on any question of order."

It will be seen that this rule does not expressly confer the power of calling to order either upon the President or a Senator, but impliedly admits that power in each, and declared the consequences of such call-

The constitutional provisions bearing upon this subject are "The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, and shall have no vote unless they be equally divided."

The next is : "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member."

currence of two-thirds, expel a member."

The first clause which I have quoted confers no express powers, yet the general powers and duties of a presiding officer in a parliamentary debate were well understood by the framers of the constitution, and it can hardly be doubted that they intended to confer upon the Vice President those powers, and required of him the preformance of those duties. But the power expressly conferred to make rules to regulate its proceedings, clearly conferred upon the Senate authority to make rules regulating the conduct of its members, including its presiding officer. What, then, are we to understand from this rule?

I have availed governith the leave afforded by the last

I have availed myself of the leisure afforded by the las possible, gather from it the intent of the Senate in adopting it. I find that one of the first acts of this body, in 1789, was to appoint a committee to "prepare a system of rules for conduc

ing business in the Senate. That committee reported a number of rules, which wer

adopted, and among the rest the two following:

"16th. When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the President shall have determined whether he is in order or not. Every question of order shall be deeided by the President without debate; and if there be a doubt in his mind, he may call for the sense of the Senate. "17th. If a member be called to order for words spoken, the exceptionable words shall be immediately taken down in writing, that the President may be better enabled to judge of

These rules remained the same until 1828; but in 1826 Mr. Calhoun, then Vice-President, declared that, in his opinion, he had no authority to call a Senator to order for words spoken in debate. In 1828 the rules were referred to a committee for revision, and were reported without any amendment to these rules; but when they came up for con-sideration in the Senate they were amended so as to read as

they now do, namely:

"6th. When a member shall be called to order by the President or a Senator, he shall sit down; and every question of order shall be decided by the President without debate, subject to an appeal to the Senate; and the President may call for the sense of the Senate on any question of order.

"7th. If a member be called to order by a Senator for

words spoken, the exceptionable words shall immediately be taken down in writing, that the President may be better en-abled to judge of the matter."

It will be seen by the comparison that the proposed rule expressly recognised the authority in the President to call to order, and gave an appeal from his decision, which the forme rules did not.

words spoken by the President, and by a Senator for words spoken, by requiring in the latter case that the objectionable words should be reduced to writing, but not in the former. On this amendment a long and interesting debate sprung up, which may be found in Gales & Seaton's Reg. of Deb., vol. 4, pt. 1, p. 278 to 341; and in this debate, though Senators differed widely as to the power of the President to call to order without the amendment, and as to the policy of adopting it, yet all seemed to conclude that, if adopted, he would have les more than two to one; and thereupon it is reported that Mr.

this opportunity to express his entire satisfaction with that portion of the amendment giving to Senators the right of appeal from the decision of the Chair, as it was not only according to strict principle, but would relieve the Chair from a most delicate duty. As to the power conferred upon the Chair it was not for him to speak, but he assured the Senate that he should always endeavor to exercise it with strict impartiality."

It appears to me, then, with all due respect to the or others, that this rule recognised the power to call to order in the Vice President, and, by implication at least, conferred

that power upon him. The next question is, does the possession of the p mpose any duty to exercise it?

The power, it will be seen, is conferred equally upon the Chair and every member of the Senate, and in precisely the same language. Is the duty then more imperative upon the President than upon any and every member of the Senate to perform the unpleasant but necessary task of exercising it responding rule of the House of Representatives. By the 22d rule of that body a member may call to order, but it is made the imperative duty of the Speaker to do so. The

"If any member in speaking or otherwise transgresses the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or any member may,

It is, perhaps, to be regretted, if the Senate desires that its residing officer should perform this delicate and ungracious duty, that its rule had not been equally explicit with that of

The reason why Senators so seldom interfere by calling each other to order, is doubtless because they fear that their motives may be misunderstood. They do not like to appear as volunteers in the discharge of such an invidious duty. The same feeling must to some extent operate upon the Chair, unless his duty be paipable. But, upon mature reflection, I have come to the conclusion, though the authority be the same, yet that the duty may be more imperative upon the Chair than upon the Senate, and that if the painful necassity shail hereafter arise, I shall feel bound to discharge my duty accordingly. I shall endeavor to do it with the utmost impartiality and respect. I know how difficult it is to determine what is and what is not in order; to restrain improper language, and yet not abridge the freedom of debate. all must see how important it is that the first departure from the strict rule of parliamentary decorum be checked, as a slight attack or even insinuation of a personal character often provokes a more severe retort, which brings out a more disorder! reply, each Senator feeling a justification in the previous ag-

for the preservation of order as to check the first violation of it If, in my anxiety to do this, I should sometimes make a mis take, I am happy to know that the Senate has the remedy in its own hands, and that, by an appeal, my error may be corrected without injury to any one. Or, if I have wholly mistaken my duty in this delicate matter, the action of the Senate will soon convince me of that fact, and in that event I shall cheerfully leave it to the disposition of the Senate. Bu I have an undoubting confidence that while I am right I shall

be fully sustained. I trust I shall be pardoned for making one or two suggestions on some points of minor importance. This body ha been so long and so justly distinguished for its dignity and decorum that I cannot but apprehend that some neglect on my part renders these remarks necessary. We all know that many little irregularities may be tolerated in a small body that would cause much disorder in a large one. The Senate has

The second rule is a very salutary one, but perhaps too stringent to be always observed in practice. It reads as

No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt

Mr. Jefferson, in his Manual, (page 140,) which seems to be a code of common law for the regulation of all parliamentary debates in the country, says that no one is to disturb and the speaking member. These are comparatively trifling matters, and yet the rules and law of the Senate would seem to require that its presiding officer should see them enforced I trust, however, that it is only necessary to call attention to them to ensure their observance by every Senator. But the ing the Chair, as required by the rule.

The Manual declares that it is a breach of order for onmember to interrupt another while speaking, unless by calling him to order, if he departs from it. It seems to me that the objection should be a very urgent one, indeed, that can justify one member in interrupting another while speaking; and that all would find it to their advantage if this rule were more strictly enforced than it has been; and that in all cases the Senator rising to explain should address the Chair, as required by the rule.

As presiding officer of the Senate, I feel that my duty consists in executing its law, as declared by its rules and by practice. If these rules are too strict, it would be better to modify than violate them. But we have a common interest and feel a common pride in the order and dignity of this body, and I therefore feel that I can appeal with confidence to every Senator to aid me in enforcing these salutary regulations. I feel it my duty to say thus much before proceeding to the course of action I have decided upon.

Mr. FOOTE. As an affair in which I was a participant

has been alluded to in a manner satisfactory to myself, if not to other Senators; I beg leave to state now what I intended to state a day or two ago, that if, on the occasion referred to, I either by word or deed, did any thing that this Senate, as a legisla-tive body, would consider as disrespectful to it in its corporate capacity, I avow the most profound regret for having done so, and I trust the Senate will make due allowance for

so, and I trust the Senate will make due allowance for the natural infirmities to which we are all subject, and for any error of conduct that may have arisen at the moment.

Mr. KING. I have listened with great attention to the statement of the presiding officer, and entirely concur in the views he expresses of the rights and duties appertaining to that position. It is necessary—it is assentially necessary, that those duties should be strictly performed by the Vice President, or any other presiding officer whom the Senate may select in his absence. They should feel it to be their imperutive duty to enforce order, to protect persons in debate, and put down every species of disorder. I hope, therefore, that we may have this statement placed on the journal, as a guide to other presiding officers, and I move that it be placed there, if it meets, as I trust it will, the full approbation of the Senate.

The motion to enter the Vice President's statement on the

ournal was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. BRADBURY. I move that the remarks which have just teen ordered to be entered on the journal of the Senate, be printed, that they may be accessible, and bound up with

ther documents.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The motion goes to the Several SENATORS. Oh let the vote be taken on it at

The motion to print was agreed to.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1850. The SPEAKER then stated that since the meeting of the House he had received a communication which he felt it his duty to lay before the House, that the body might take such action in the matter as they deemed proper.

The following communication from the Secretary of War

was then read by the clerk :

WASHINGTON, APRIL 2, 1850.

Sin: My official connexion with the Government authorizes me, in my judgment, to ask, and have accorded to me by the House over which you preside, a prompt and full investigation, in such manner as it may think proper, of my conduct and relation to the claim of the representatives of George Galphin; which claim has been adjudicated and paid at one of the Departments of the Government, and is now attracting public attention.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. CRAWFORD.

Hon. Howell Cons,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. TOOMBS moved that a committee of nine members be appointed by the Chair to take into consideration the sub-ject of the communication just read, and asked to be excused relations to the Secretary of War, and because, from a full and thorough knowledge of the facts, his mind was made up.

The motion of Mr. Toowns was agreed to.

ANOTHER TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE PROPOSED.

On motion of Mr. BAYLY, the House then resolved itself nto Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCLERNAND (Mr. RICHARDSON, who was entitled to the floor, yielding) gave notice of his intention to offer at the proper time, as a compromise to the question of slavery, a bill having for its basis the following objects, and made explanatory remarks thereon.

1st. The bill provides for the admission of the State of Ca-

lifornia into the Union with her constitutional boundaries. 2d. The bill provides for the erection of a Territorial Government, to exclude that part of the territory of the United States lying south of the 42° north latitude east of the State of California, north of the 35° north latitude west of the Co lorado and Virgin rivers, and the main easterly branch of the latter to its source : thence west of a due north line to the summit of the mountain range dividing the waters flowing into the Pacific from those flowing into the Great Basin; thence west of the summit of that mountain range to its in-

styled the Territory of Utah. 3d. The bill provides for the erection of a Territorial Government, including all the residue of the territory of the United States acquired by the late treaty with the Mexican Republic, not included in the State of California and the Territory of Utah, more or less, including, of course, the depart-ment of New Mexico, with its rightful limits, and no more. The Territory thus erected, or the Territorial Governments to be formed therefrom, are provided for by a pledge that they shall be admitted into the Union, with convenient limits, as States, when their population shall be audicient, and when they shall have presented a constitution of republican form

and ask to be admitted. 4th. As a proposition of compromise, if the State of Texas shall consent to and confirm that part of the southern boundary of the Territory of New Mexico, as defined, extending from the intersection of the 34° north latitude, with the Ri Grande, upon a direct line to the intersection of 1000 of tongitude west from Greenwich, with the Red river or the main or Salt Fork thereof, and shall quitelaim all the territories north of said boundary to the extent of her claim to the United States; in that event certificates of five per cent. stock, amounting, in all, to \$10,000,000, are to be delivered to Texas by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States; provided that, if Texas shall thus reduce her boundary as laimed by her, such reduction shall not alter the number of States authorized to be admitted into the Union without any restriction as to slavery in the joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States; and provided further, that if the State of Texas shall not consent to such reduction, all of the fourth proposition shall be null and of no effect by intendment

Mr. CARTER gave notice of his intention to offer the following proviso as an amendment to the bill at the proper

"Provided, That the laws and decrees probibling slavery in the Republic of Mexico, and in force at the time of the session of the New Mexican Territory to the United States, he and continue in force in the said Territory until the citizens thereof shall frame constitutions and be received into the Union as sovereign States."

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1850.

The following gentlemen compose the committee appointed by the SPRAKER yesterday, on the motion of Mr. Tooms, and in compliance with the request of Mr. CRAWFORD, the Secretary of War, to investigate the conduct and relation of that officer to the claim of the representatives of George Gal-phin, which claim has been lately adjudicated at one of the

Mr. BURT, of South Carolina ; Mr. GRINNELL, of Massachusetts; Mr. Featherston, of Mississippi; Mr. Gan-rry, of Tennessee; Mr. Disney, of Ohio; Mr. James G. Cino, of New Jersey; Mr. McLanauan, of Pennsylvania; Mr. CONRAD, of Louisiana; Mr. JOSEPH W. JACKSON, of Georgia.

NEW MEXICO AND DESERET. Mr. STRONG, from the Committee of Elections, by ananimous consent, made a report in the case of ALMON W. BARRITT, Esq., Delegate from Deseret, accompanied by a resolution that it is inexpedient to admit Almon W. Babbitt o a seat in this House as a delegate from the alleged State

Also, a report in the case of HUDR N. SMITH, Esq., Delegate from New Mexico, accompanied by a resolution similar o that in the case of Mr. Babbitt.

THE PRESIDENT'S CALIFORNIA MESSAGE. On motion of Mr. RICHARDSON, the House resilved tself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Born, of Kentucky, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the message of the President of the United onsideration of the message states transmitting the Constitution of the State of California.

Mr. GREEN, being entitled to the floor, made a speech which occupied his allotted hour on the subject of slavery.

Mr. SPALDING followed, and also spoke an hour on the

Mr. WALLACE next succeeded in obtaining the floor, but yielded to a motion that the committee rise; which was

And the committee rose, and the House adjourned

SCHOOL BOOKS of every description for sale by R. FARNHAM, corner of Pean, avenue and Eleventh at.